

BACKGROUND

- The HPV vaccine helps protect against **human papillomavirus (HPV)**, the most common sexually transmitted virus
 - Linked to cervical, mouth, anal, penile, vulval and vaginal cancers and genital warts.
- The COVID-19 pandemic led to delays in routine preventative primary care and declines in HPV immunization rates (Hanley et al., 2023).
- 40–69% of female college students and 8–43% of male college students report initiating the HPV vaccine series (Stout et al., 2020).
- In Pennsylvania, only 60.1% of adolescents are up to date on the HPV vaccine—compared to 90%+ for Tdap, meningococcal, and Hep B (CDC, 2022).
- Recommended HPV vaccine messages included focusing on cancer prevention rather than sexual transmission, routinizing the vaccine, and highlighting risks/costs of HPV (Cartmell et al., 2019).
- Every year approximately 4,000 students enroll into Pitt. 2,000+ students attend the annual Pitt Wellness Fair offering an HPV educational opportunity.

OBJECTIVES

- To increase HPV vaccine, knowledge, intentions, and uptake among Pitt students through a multi-component educational initiative that leverages campus partnerships and outreach events.

METHODS

- Performed an in-depth literature review on HPV interventions and cervical cancer rates.
- Interviewed University of Pittsburgh Student Health Services Medical Director, Dr. Wettick, MD to discuss strategies Student Health Services uses to improve rates of HPV vaccination Services, as well as Dr. Cassagrande, MD better understand the current state and possibilities for interventions.
- Presented intervention idea to Student Health Services, Pitt Vaccination & Health Connection Hub and University Pharmacy.

RESULTS

HPV vaccination coverage among 7th and 12th grade students in Allegheny County, 2017–2023

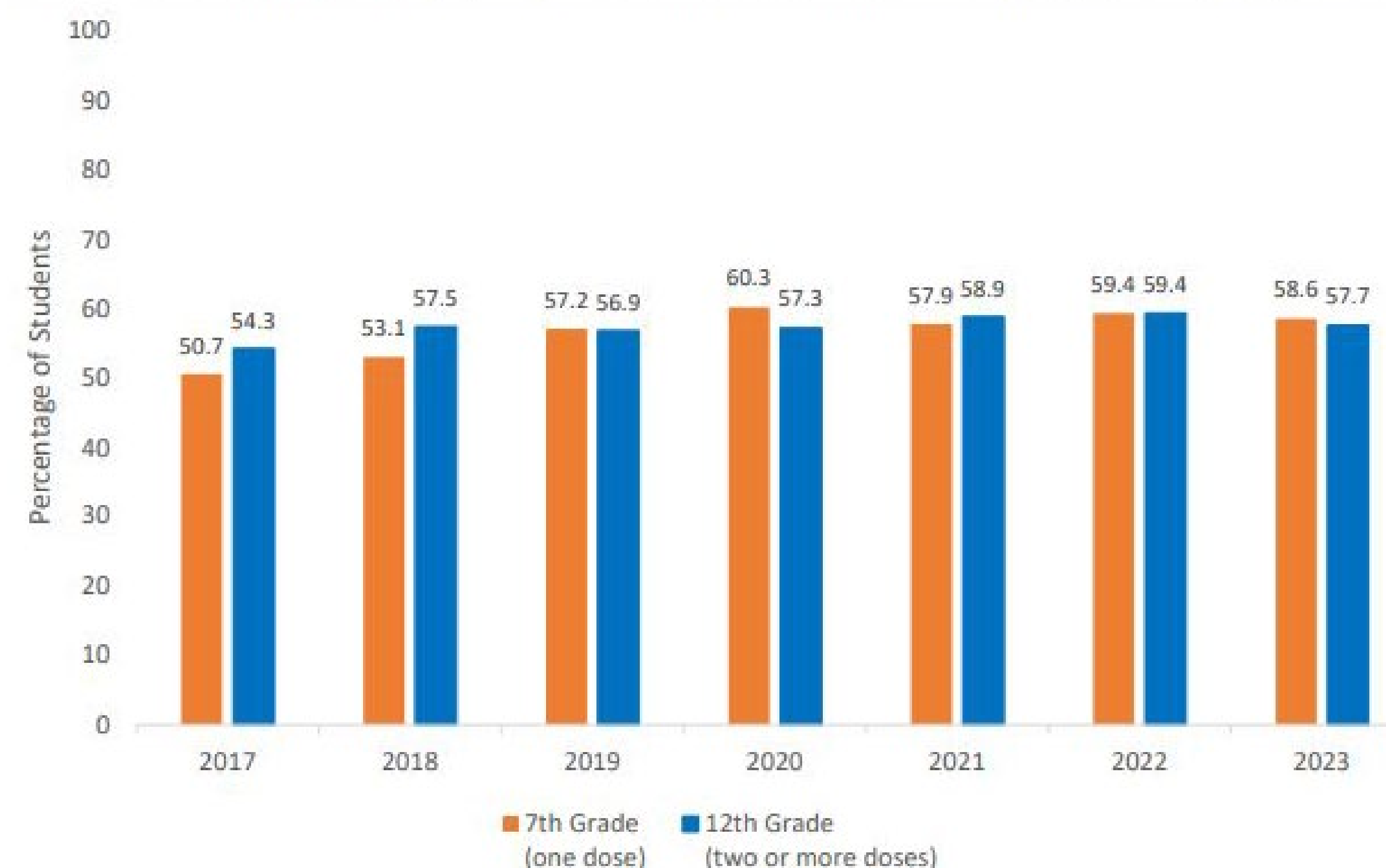


Figure 1. This figure shows the percentage of 7th graders who received at least one dose and 12th graders who received two or more doses of the HPV vaccine, based on school-reported data.

	All ages ^a		Ages 18–26years ^b	
	2018 N (%)	2019 N (%)	2018 N (%)	2019 N (%)
Doses administered	290	509	273	455
Gender				
Female	196 (68)	397 (78)	186 (68)	363 (80)
Male	94 (32)	112 (22)	87 (32)	92 (20)
Age category (years)				
18–20	97 (33)	181 (36)	97 (36)	181 (40)
21–23	122 (42)	199 (39)	122 (45)	199 (44)
24–26	54 (19)	75 (15)	54 (20)	75 (17)
27 and older	17 (6)	54 (11)	–	–

Figure 2. Doses of HPV vaccine administered at Florida State University’s University Health Services, during the spring semester of 2018 vs. 2019 by gender and age category following the implementation of the student-directed campaign.

DISCUSSION

- My proposed intervention is a **Two-Part, Actionable Plan to Increase HPV Vaccine Uptake**, which focuses on awareness and access through strategic campus collaboration.
- It involves HPV education at the Annual Panther Wellness Fair and hosting an HPV Awareness Day.
- My literature review results show that there is a significant need for education and targeted outreach to college-aged male students, who may perceive lower risk of contracting the virus.
- Leverages campus partnerships and outreach events and could inspire future research.

LIMITATIONS

- Lack of current research on total college students vaccinated for HPV.
- Lack of programming efforts.
- Lack of time to implement strategies within the project scope.

CONCLUSION

- I shared my ideas with the Student Health Services team and Pitt Vaccination & Health Connection Hub, and they indicated interest; Collaboration is looking promising.
- Partnership between University health centers are important; they are well-positioned to deliver catch-up HPV vaccine interventions to lessen the gap between the number of males and females who get vaccinated.

REFERENCES



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PITT HPV ACTION INTERVENTION

Two-Part Strategy to Increase HPV Vaccine

